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ACTION: CIRCULAR 674

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Subject is USG desire stop Soviet flights to Cuba.

USSR has been operating flights to Cuba via North Atlantic for some time (no overflight US airspace involved). While flights are on irregular basis, frequency has been increasing. FYI. USG last week called upon NATO countries deny Soviet overflight and landing requests for flights destined Cuba and Department believes there is reasonably good chance NATO agreement this question. End FYI.

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However USSR can serve Havana via southern route without overflying any NATO country. Aeroflot TU-114 flew on trial basis Moscow-Gonakry-Havana on July 12 mostly over high seas.

Rabat

has also reported TU-114 flight Moscow-Rabat-Dakar-Havana scheduled for October 17-19.

It is clear Soviets attempting open up southern route using both long-range TU-114 (and thus avoiding most or even all countries which might thwart service) and workhorse short-range IL-18 on route such as Moscow-Belgrade-Rabat-Dakar or Conakry-Recife-Port-of-Spain-Havana. USG desires

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

AV. J. R. Vitale

Drafted by:

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Foster
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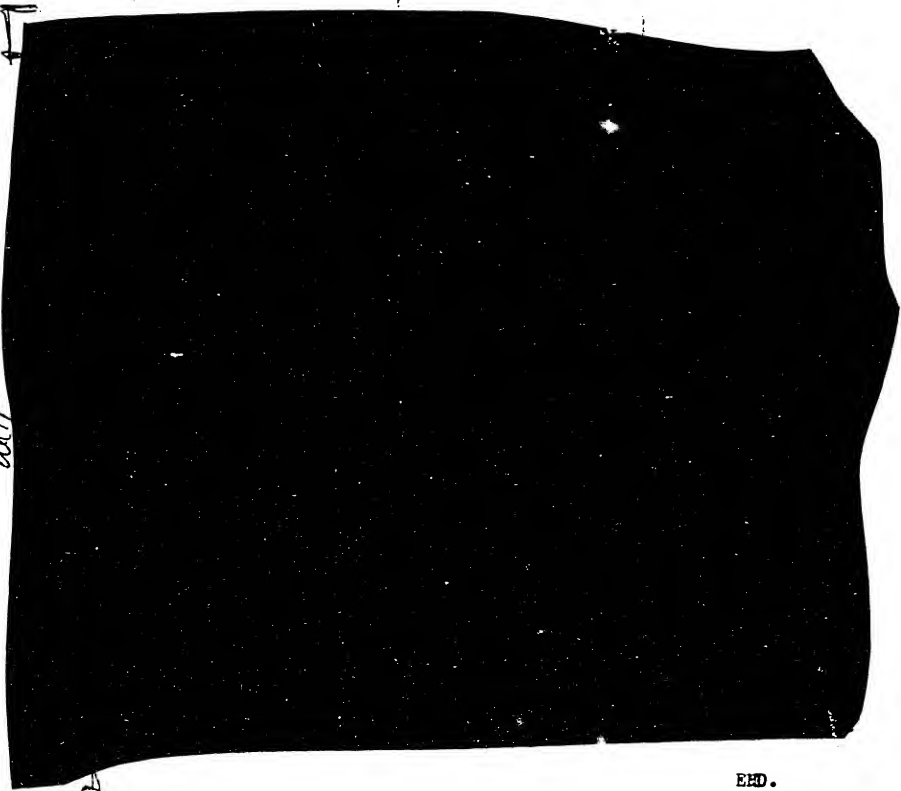
supplement efforts in NAFO by moving on broad front to prevent operation southern routes where possible.

1. Action addresses except Country should if no overriding objection perceived make approaches host governments at highest appropriate level likely be effective urging they not permit Soviet overflights or landing en route Cuba. Countries concerned under no obligation, legal or otherwise, approve Soviet overflight and landing requests since USSR not party to Chicago Convention and International Air Services Transit Agreement nor, with possible exception Morocco (see Depcol 842 to Rabat), to any bilateral air transport agreement which accords USSR necessary rights. Posts may also, as appropriate, cite significant Soviet involvement in Cuba as springboard Cuban-Soviet ~~aggression~~ ^{aggressive purposes} and subversive moves against Western Hemisphere and Free World, Soviet use of air transport as instrument political penetration rather than commercial venture, facilitation Soviet flights to Cuba only serves strengthen Cuban regime and promotes Soviet use of Cuba as vehicle achieve its Cold War designs. We can not ignore US public reaction if foreign countries acquiesce Soviet intervention Cuba by permitting air access and you should mention this point if appropriate. Finally, you may stress approval Soviet requests would accord USSR privileges not enjoyed reciprocally by country in question nor in fact by other countries (since USSR does not permit overflights its territory to third countries).

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EHD.

TO: Ambassador, PORT-OF-SPAIN
Ambassador, RIO DE JANEIRO
Ambassador, CONAKRY
Ambassador, RABAT
Ambassador, DAKAR

INFO: ConGen, KINGSTON (POUCH)
ConGen, RECIFE (POUCH)
Ambassador, LONDON
Ambassador, OTTAWA
Ambassador, MOSCOW
Ambassador, PARIS for USRO
Ambassador, LAGOS

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Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

AP and R. Vitale

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supplement efforts in NATO by moving on broad front to prevent operation
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END.

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